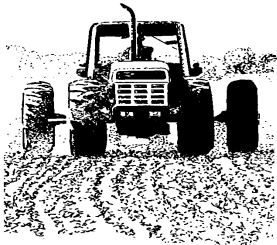




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Tennessee Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin



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Week Ending October 16, 2005

GOOD WEEK FOR CROP HARVEST; NEED RAIN FOR FALL SEEDING

Tennessee farmers took advantage of dry conditions last week to continue making excellent progress with crop harvest. Cotton defoliation is nearing completion, slightly ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Cotton harvest continues to be a few days ahead of last year’s pace, while condition mildly improved over the week earlier. Soybean producers also made good progress with almost 60 percent of the State’s acreage harvested by week’s end. Yields for both crops continued to be reported as highly variable. Corn harvest was virtually completed by week’s end, on pace with normal. Burley tobacco producers had one-third of their production stripped, slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Other agricultural activities last week included applying lime to production fields, seeding and fertilizing fall pastures, and sowing winter wheat.

There were 7 days considered suitable for field work. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 13 percent very short, 39 percent short, and 48 percent adequate. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 12 percent very short, 32 percent short, 55 percent adequate, and 1 percent surplus. Temperatures averaged 1 to 6 degrees above normal across the State, while rainfall averaged below normal with many locations recording no precipitation last week.

CROP PROGRESS: Through October 16, 2005					CONDITION: On October 14, 2005					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2004	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Corn - Grain Harvested	94	88	97	95	Cotton	0	3	19	61	17
Soybeans - Harvested	58	44	43	33	Pastures	11	17	37	33	2
Cotton Defoliated	93	80	90	91						
Cotton Harvested	44	30	39	49						
Winter Wheat Seeded	27	13	18	24						
Burley Tobacco Stripped	33	20	37	28						

COTTON: Harvest was running ahead of last year, with nearly half of the acreage picked. With only a little less than ten percent of the cotton left to defoliate, farmers were on-schedule with last year and the normal pace.

SOYBEANS: Soybean harvest continued to outpace last year by about a week and the 5-year average by almost two-weeks, although fog and cloudy conditions last week slowed progress. Growers are awaiting double crop beans to fully develop to finish harvesting this year’s crop.

TOBACCO: As of Sunday, stripping was running slightly ahead of normal with one-third of the State’s burley crop completed. Moisture conditions last week, from morning dew and fog, were favorable for handling the crop.

WINTER WHEAT: Good progress was made last week, but some producers are delaying any additional seedings until rains arrive. Seeding progress thus far is ahead of last year and the 5-year average.

PASTURES & HAY: With very little rain received last week, pastures continued to suffer and conditions declined. Not only are some cattlemen feeding hay to their cattle, but a few producers in the eastern portion of the State are having to carry water due to ponds drying up.

County Agent Quotes

“Dry, cool weather has allowed for excellent harvest conditions on corn, soybeans, and fall hay. All of the tobacco has now been harvested and some is being stripped. We could use some rain on our pastures.”

Ronnie Barron, Cheatham County

“Tobacco farmers are enjoying the cooler days as they prepare to finish up their grading. Some cattle producers are finishing up on stockpiling and the rest are beginning to put out hay.”

James Griffin, Union County

“Cooler temperatures and morning dew has improved moisture and in turn improved crops conditions.”

J W McGuire, Wilson County

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: October 16th, 2005 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending October 16, 2005				Current Week	Rain	Current	Departure	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	10/16/05	Days	Since January 1	From Normal		
Ames_Plantation	85	46	62	+2	0.15	1	43.85	+3.10	2760	+333
Tri-City_RGNL_A	81	38	64	+7	0.00	0	31.90	-1.29	1978	+314
Brownsville_TN	85	47	63	+2	0.11	1	41.11	+0.43	2845	+699
Chattanooga/Lov	82	49	68	+7	0.02	1	38.86	-3.25	2716	+372
Clarksville_Sew	82	42	64	+5	0.02	1	36.57	-2.77	2652	+479
Cookeville	80	38	62	+4	0.02	2	34.09	-10.69	2139	+797
Covington	83	47	63	+2	0.06	1	40.71	+0.80	2629	+156
Crossville_AP	77	42	61	+6	0.11	2	37.05	-6.59	1901	+379
Dickson_AG	80	40	61	+2	0.00	0	40.51	-1.51	2220	-34
Dover_1W	76	42	60	+3	0.00	0	37.81	-3.18	2440	+507
Dyersburg	82	46	63	+1	0.00	0	36.89	-1.96	2831	+205
Erwin_1W	81	41	65	+11	0.00	0	35.40	-4.41	1862	-108
Huntingdon_Wate	80	42	61	+2	0.00	0	40.14	-1.49	2533	+485
Jackson_Exp_Stn	83	42	61	+1	0.07	1	45.02	+4.37	2703	+331
Kingston_AG	79	46	65	+8	0.03	1	41.35	-4.51	2235	+457
Knoxville_AP	80	47	67	+8	0.00	0	31.75	-5.70	2489	+480
Lewisburg	84	39	62	+4	0.00	0	41.06	-1.85	2319	+302
Lexington_TN	82	43	62	+2	0.00	0	39.67	+0.06	2525	+1092
Linden	83	38	61	+3	0.06	1	37.39	-5.58	2446	+408
Martin	81	43	61	+2	0.00	0	38.00	-3.20	2597	+338
Mc_Minnville_Tn	81	40	64	+5	0.01	1	33.08	-8.93	2430	-93
Memphis_AG	85	46	63	-2	0.12	1	41.09	+1.38	2913	-35
Milan	83	38	60	+1	0.04	1	43.20	+0.80	2471	+265
Murfreesboro_5N	82	39	61	+2	0.00	0	36.07	-5.99	2505	-19
Nashville_Metro	82	44	63	+2	0.00	0	33.55	-3.72	2783	+389
Newcomb	78	38	62	+8	1.17	2	39.85	-3.63	2044	+617
Oneida	78	39	62	+7	0.52	1	35.67	-7.81	2041	-105
Pikeville	79	45	65	+6	0.04	1	31.34	-10.56	2315	+357
Portland_TN	79	40	61	+3	0.08	1	43.57	+3.32	2436	+465
Pulaski_Water_P	83	43	63	+2	0.00	0	43.52	+0.47	2340	-30
Savannah_6SW	84	41	60	-3	0.00	0	45.47	+1.61	2528	+425
Sparta_TN	81	38	64	+7	0.03	2	34.46	-8.86	2398	+695
Springfield	80	41	60	+3	0.00	0	37.35	-1.38	2360	+388
Springhill	85	40	62	+4	0.00	0	40.73	-2.03	2468	+462
Union_City	81	41	61	+3	0.00	0	39.56	-0.63	2406	+225
Waynesboro_TN	82	40	61	+4	0.01	1	38.80	-5.88	2415	+149

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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